

**In the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph at page 18, lines 13-18 with the following:

Figure 6 illustrates the structural biochemistry of isoaspartyl formation and the amino acid sequence of melanoma TRP-2 synthetic peptides. TRP-2 protein is a melanoma tumor protein found on both human melanoma cells and on B16F10 murine melanoma cells. For this approach, TRP-2 peptide (sequence 181-188) was synthesized separately with an isoaspartyl amino acid modification at residue 183 (SEQ ID NO:3) or, conversely, an aspartic acid residue (SEQ ID NO:2). Peptides were used in HPLC purified form for immunizations.

Please replace the paragraph at page 19, lines 6-17 with the following:

Figure 9 illustrates that CD8 T cells specific for the TRP-2 peptide are elicited by immunization with isoaspartyl TRP-2 peptide. Mice were immunized subcutaneously with 50µg of isoaspartyl TRP-2 emulsified in CFA. At day 14 after immunization, lymph node cells were removed and single cell suspensions ( $4 \times 10^6$  cells/ml) were incubated in culture with isoaspartyl TRP-2 peptide (10µg/ml) for 5 days (37°C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub>). Living cells were purified by Ficoll-hypaque and incubated with anti-CD8-FITC antibody (Promega Inc.) and MHC class I (H-2K<sup>b</sup>) tetramers linked to PE, as indicated. Tetramer staining was performed with a control, non-specific peptide (SIINFEKL) (SEQ ID NO:4) and with aspartyl and isoaspartyl TRP-2 peptide tetramers, as indicated. Expansion of lymph node cells in 5 day

cultures profoundly stimulated the growth of CD8 T cells that were bound by aspartyl and isoaspartyl TRP-2 tetramers. In contrast, parallel studies performed in aspartyl TRP-2 immunized animals failed to stimulate TRP-2 specific CD8 T cells (data not shown).